"(*b*) The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 30,000. The minimum 25 per cent public contribution required for the work is Rs. 7,500.

"(*c*) No. Only a sum of Rs. 1,000 has so far been collected. There is no demand to return the amount already collected."

Constitution of Area Committees under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act.

* 1367 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the strength of the members of the Area Committees appointed under the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, district-war;

(*b*) how many Harijans are members in each Area Committee;

(*c*) whether there is any change in the membership of these Committees every year; and

(*d*) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—"(*a*) Area Committees are not constituted district-war. There are twelve Assistant Commissioners' divisions in the State and each division has an Area Committee. Under section 13 (1) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951, the number of members of an Area Committee should not be less than three or more than five. The strength of each of the twelve Area Committees has been fixed as five members.

"(*b*) There are seven Harijan members one in each of the following Area Committees :—

(1) Madras-Chingleput division.
(2) South and North Arcot division.
(3) Coimbatore-Salem-Nilgiris division.
(4) West Tanjore division.
(5) East Tanjore division.
(6) Madurai division.
(7) Tirunelveli division.

"(*c*) & (*d*) Under section 13 (2) of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, each member is ordinarily entitled to hold office for three years from the date on which his appointment has been notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*"

SRI M. KATTIMUTHU :—" பிரதேசக் கமிட்டிகளின் அங்கத்தினர்களுடைய எண்ணிக்கையை அதிகப்படுத்தி, அதில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு மெஜாரிடி ஸ்தானங்களை ஒதுக்க அரசாங்கம் முன் வருமா ? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Attempts will be made to give due representation to the members of the Harijan community."